aimed at meeting the local and regional needs in terms of manpower development, training, rehabilitation and services in addition to research, material development, information and documentation services and outreach and extension services. Thus the Institute functions as a role model in the field of hearing disability.

(d) No such proposal is under consideration.

(e) The NIHH is functioning in the field of Hearing disability only.

Financial assistance for SC, ST and OBC students

2882. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have got any scheme to give financial assistance to students of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes to purchase books, stationery and uniforms;

(b) if so, whether the scheme is being implemented in Goa; and

(c) the financial assistance given to the State Governments, if any, during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) The Government is providing financial assistance to the students belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes under various schemes of educational development.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The details of financial assistance released to the State Governments during the last five years is enclosed as a Statement.

Statement

(Rupess in lakh)

Name of the Scheme	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5	6
Scheme of Post-Matric Scholarship for Students belonging to OBC	2631.81	2399.01	2466.97	2640.62	5329.80
Scheme of Post-Matric Scholarship for ST Students	5158.64	6579.47	10137.71	21018.09	25503.41
Scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarship for Students belonging to OBC	1874.08	1700.00	1875.66	1970.99	2526.96

1	2	3	4	5	6
Scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarship for children of those who are engaged in unclean occupation.	512.50	1460.17	989.22	1080.16	2025.19
Scheme of Central Sector Scheme of Upgradation of Merit of SC Students.	304.63	185.17	176.67	622.29	299.73

Amendments in Persons with Disabilities Act

2883. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI DARA SINGH:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made, so far, in the process of amending the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, keeping in view the hardships being faced by the disabled persons;

(b) the reasons for the delay in bringing forward the proposed amending Bill before Parliament; and

(c) the action plan chalked out by Government to expedite it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) The Government of India has adopted consultation process with the various stakeholders for amending ''the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995'', There was a demand that the amendment to the Act may be taken up after the UN Convention on Rights of the Persons with Disabilities was finalized. After the UN Convention was signed on 30th March, 2007, the consultation process has been resumed. Three consultation meetings have already been held at Patna, Chennai and Delhi.

Inclusion of Nepali sub-castes in the SC list

†2884. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have information that many sub-castes across the country desire to be included in the list of Scheduled Castes;

(b) whether there are any fixed norms regarding inclusion of any caste or sub-caste in the list of Scheduled Castes;

(c) the names of sub-castes of Nepali Caste which are considered as Scheduled Castes; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.